HOW BASIC EDUCATION IS SUPPORTED

BY THE

GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA

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INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

This bulletin summarizes the type and amount of provincial support for basic education for the 1982 fiscal year. While the level of funding is subject to the approval of the Legislative Assembly, advance notice of the government's intent was given to school boards to assist them in establishing budgets prior to the March 31st deadline.

To facilitate local planning, the government is continuing its policy to maintain the existing grant structure for basic education. Basic education refers to Early Childhood Services programs and instruction provided to pupils in grades 1 through 12.

The grant structure in 1982 is an extension and modification of the grant structure in place since 1976. The level of funding for this year continues to reflect the government's high priority for basic education with emphasis upon the provision of compensation to school boards for rising costs due to inflation, upon the special educational needs of the handicapped, and upon improvement of programs, greater community participation, and greater fiscal equalization to foster equality of educational opportunity.

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BASIC PER PUPIL GRANTS

Basic per pupil grants are provided by the Alberta Government to all school authorities for support of instructional programs prescribed or approved by the Minister of Education for pupils enrolled in grades 1 through 12, and for children registered in Early Childhood Services programs.

A. Public and Separate Schools

1. School boards will receive basic per pupil instructional grants of
   - $1596 for each elementary pupil
   - $1673 for each junior high pupil
   - $1916 for each senior high pupil

   representing a 14.1 percent increase over 1981 grants. Where a school district has been established to educate the children of employees of the Government of Canada, the grants paid to a board will be equal to 50% of the amounts listed above.

2. In addition, boards will receive
   - an allowance to offset administration costs amounting to 3% of the total claim for basic per pupil grants for grades 1 through 12 and for pupil transportation
   - a rebate of $10.70 per pupil for contributions made on behalf of teachers to the Canada Pension Plan
   - a reading materials grant of $3.25 per elementary pupil as well as an additional $3.25 per pupil where the language of instruction is a language other than English.

B. Early Childhood Services

1. School boards and approved private ECS operators will receive annual basic per child grants according to the following:

   A. Effective January 1, 1982
      - $798 for each registered child, excluding those designated as being handicapped or living in a disadvantaged area
      - $1065 for each child living in a disadvantaged area
      - $1575 to $1985 for each handicapped child.

B. Effective September 1, 1982

- $958 for each registered child, excluding those designated as being handicapped or living in a disadvantaged area
- $1225 for each child living in a disadvantaged area
- $1735 to $2145 for each handicapped child.

2. A rebate of $5.35 per child for contributions made on behalf of teacher employees to the Canada Pension Plan will also be made to school boards.

3. In addition to the basic per pupil grant for handicapped children, an assessment grant for the lesser of the actual cost or $175 per approved handicapped child is available.

4. Based on the number of hours of the program in a centre and/or in-home program visits, operators of program units receive support according to the following schedule:

Number of Children Enrolled in Program Unit	Rate Per Program Unit
1	$ 20,770
2	24,920
3	29,070
4	33,220
5	37,370
6	41,520
7 or more	41,520 plus $6920 for each child enrolled in excess of 6 children

5. ECS Small Centre Assistance Grant - The intent of this grant, in addition to other ECS grants, is to assist ECS operators to maintain small centres where transportation to larger centres is not viable.

Where the centre is not in a city school district and the enrolment in the centre is fewer than ten, the operator may be eligible for a grant of up to $4720.

Where enrolment in an ECS centre (urban or rural) is not fewer than ten children but fewer than twenty, the operator may be eligible for a grant of up to $4720.

C. Private Schools

Private schools approved for funding will receive

1. a basic per pupil grant of
   - $1197 for each elementary pupil
   - $1255 for each junior high pupil
   - $57.50 per course credit to a maximum of $1437 for each senior high school pupil.
2. a reading materials grant of $3.25 per elementary pupil.

PUPIL TRANSPORTATION GRANTS

A. Public and Separate School Boards

Pupil transportation grants to public and separate school boards may be described in terms of

1. support to boards in rural areas
2. support to boards of city school districts
3. special support to all boards

Boards are eligible for a pupil transportation grant if a pupil resides at least 2.4 km from the school designated by the board for the pupil to attend. (This distance requirement is not applicable to handicapped pupils.) If a pupil must reside away from home in order to attend a school, then a board is eligible to receive a boarding allowance in lieu of a pupil transportation grant.

1. To operate school buses (owned and contracted), boards in rural areas will receive a basic grant of
   - $41.90 to $62.20 per school day for each bus with a seating capacity of 12 or more, or
   - $38.50 per day for each school day a bus
     (a) is unable to operate because of inclement weather, or
     (b) does not operate because the board has designated that day (up to a maximum of five days in a school year) a teacher-convention day, an in-service day, or a parent-teacher interview day.

   In addition, boards will receive
   - 47¢ per km per day for transporting students to and from school for distances travelled by all buses above the fleet average of 80 km per bus, and
   - 47¢ for each km pupils are transported between schools for regular scheduled instruction during the school day.

   However, in all of the above, a minimum of 85% occupancy of the rated seating capacity of the board's fleet of buses must be met for a board to receive full funding. Where occupancy is less than 85%, the amount of support is reduced proportionately, using 85% as a base for full funding.

   Rural boards may also claim for the use of special vehicles at the rate of $3.70 per day for each pupil transported from two or more families up to

- $14.80 for cars
- $26.00 for station wagons
- $37.10 for vans
- $44.50 for horse drawn vehicles

with an additional 35¢ per km for distances travelled by all motor vehicles owned, leased, or under contract to a board over a fleet average of 50 km per vehicle.

2. Boards of city school districts will receive up to $154 per pupil per year for incurred transportation costs.

3. All boards will receive special support grants for
   - conveyance of severely handicapped pupils of up to $6.85 per day
   - conveyance of regular pupils by a parent to a school or bus route at the rate of 35¢ per km for the eligible distance one way up to $5.50 per day
   - a boarding allowance of up to $7.40 per day for each pupil living away from home.

B. Early Childhood Services

Grants for children registered in government approved Early Childhood Services (ECS) programs are provided to school boards and ECS operators with no restrictions on the distance the children are transported. Each type of funding grant and the amount of each is outlined as follows:

1. Transportation of children residing outside a city school district is supported by up to $2.00 per day for each child transported.

2. With prior approval of the Minister of Education, transportation of children residing within a city school district is supported by up to $1.90 per day for each child transported.

3. Transportation of handicapped children is supported by up to $6.85 per day for each child requiring special transportation.

4. Where a teacher or a teacher's aide visits a pupil's home to provide instruction in an approved in-home program, such visits are supported by up to $7.10 per visit to a maximum of 18 visits per child per year.

SCHOOL BUILDINGS SUPPORT

Financial support provided by the Alberta Government for school buildings falls into two basic categories:

A. Support for Public and Separate Schools
   1. New Construction
   2. Building Quality Restoration Program (BQRP)

B. Support for Special Program Facilities
   1. Early Childhood Services
   2. Special Education

The School Buildings Board determines the amount of provincial support for each project. All other costs over the established basic provincial support level are a local responsibility. The actual financing of projects is usually through debenture borrowing from the Alberta Municipal Finance Corporation upon prior approval of the Local Authorities Board. Projects financed through short-term capital loans must receive approval of the Minister of Education.

A. Public and Separate Schools

1. New Construction

Up to December 31, 1978, support to boards for construction of new schools, renovation and addition to existing facilities, and purchase of portable units was a certain dollar amount per square metre based on

- basic construction costs
- nearness of project to a city
- availability of community water or sewage system
- soil conditions.

On January 1, 1979, a new funding plan for school construction came into effect which gave boards the option to remain with the former plan until December 31, 1981. Under the new scheme, boards are given flexibility to decide where, when, why, and how schools are to be constructed provided that

- a three-year capital budget is submitted to and approved by the School Buildings Board
- the board receives Ministerial approval of its 5-year Financial Plan if the amount of unsupported capital indebtedness in any given year exceeds 3 mills.

The extent of eligibility for financial support is based on a general formula that takes into consideration

- the local equalized assessment per resident pupil relative to the provincial average
- the utilization of existing and added student places three years from the approved date of tender or other scheme of construction
- a maximum level of support per square metre for different types of schools such as permanent construction, core schools, and portables
- the number of square metres per student depending on grades and programs to be taught

plus an allowance for

- geographic location
- purchase of vocational equipment.

Where renovations are made to change the function of existing space within a school, support will

- not exceed 50 percent of that allowed for new construction
- take into account the life expectancy of existing space.

Where a school is replaced, the support level will be the same as for new construction minus an amount based on the remaining life expectancy of the school being replaced.

2. Building Quality Restoration Program (BQRP)

As of January 1, 1979, the BQR program has been continued for a five-year period ending December 31, 1983, except for funding to upgrade vocational education equipment which will span only a three-year period. BQR program support will total $94.5 million during this time and continue to operate on a project approval basis for

- replacing major basic structural, electrical, and mechanical components that have failed
- modification required by changes in building code requirements
- upgrading of vocational equipment
- modernizing existing space for program purposes
- energy conservation.

B. Support for Special Program Facilities

1. Early Childhood Services (ECS)

School boards and licensed private operators are eligible to receive a one-time grant of between $1000.00 and $2500.00 to establish an instructional area for ECS children. Funds are to be used for the renovation of a building and/or purchase of furniture and equipment. There is also a $5000.00 renovation grant for facilities requiring Fire and Health approvals.

2. Special Education

There are two circumstances in which boards receive grants to offset capital costs for special education facilities that are not included in the general support plan for funding school construction. These are as follows:

(a) Where a board makes a capital contribution to any approved organization or agency which provides instruction to the trainable mentally retarded or severely learning disabled, the financial support will be the lesser of

- 90% of the support outlined in the School Buildings Regulations, or
- 90% of the actual cost of the school building project.

(b) Where a board constructs special facilities to provide instruction for the handicapped who cannot be educated in regular classrooms, the financial support will be the lesser of

- the level of support provided to the board for construction of regular school facilities, or
- the actual cost of the school building project.

SUPPORT TOWARDS FISCAL EQUALIZATION

Through the provision of eight types of grants, the Alberta Government attempts to equalize the fiscal capability of all boards. The grants designated for this purpose are:

1. Supplementary Requisition Equalization Grant (SREG)
2. Declining Enrolment Grant
3. Private School Opening Grant to School Boards
4. Small School Assistance Grant
5. Small School Jurisdiction Grant
6. Teacher Location Grant
7. Teacher Housing Unit Grant
8. Corporate Assessment Grant

Supplementary Requisition Equalization Grant (SREG)

The intent of this grant is to guarantee each board a minimum level of support for each resident pupil based on a given per pupil assessment and a net mill rate. For 1982, the provincial support level has been increased to a maximum of $700.00 per pupil based on a per resident pupil assessment of $33,500 and a net mill rate of 20.9 for divisions and counties and a per resident pupil assessment of $37,000 and a net mill rate of 18.9 for all other jurisdictions. Where assessments have changed substantially from the previous year and would normally result in severe reduction in support the actual support received by a board will not be less than 80% of the previous year's entitlement.

Declining Enrolment Grant

This grant is provided to boards to offset the loss of provincial revenues due to declining enrolments. Eligibility, however, is restricted to boards experiencing at least a 1% decline in pupil enrolment from September 30, 1980 to September 30, 1981.

For these boards, the amount of the grant is $450 to $1490 per lost pupil in excess of 1%, depending upon the eligible enrolment as of September 30, 1980.

Private School Opening Grant to School Boards

Grants are paid to a board in lieu of the loss of revenue resulting from resident pupils attending an approved private school within the geographic boundaries of the board to an amount per absent pupil equal to

- 100% of the entitlement for basic pupil instruction and pupil transportation in the first year, and
- 50% of the entitlement for basic pupil instruction and pupil transportation in the second year.

Small School Assistance Grant

This grant provides assistance to those school jurisdictions with an enrolment of fewer than 6000 students and one or more small schools. To be eligible for funds, an elementary school must have an average enrolment of fewer than 10 pupils per grade; a junior high school, an average of fewer than 13 pupils per grade; and a senior high school, an average of fewer than 15 students per grade. If a school offers more than one level of instruction (elementary, junior high, senior high), the criteria are applied separately to each level. For small schools which offer instruction in both English and another language, each language group in that school will be considered as an individual small school when applying the above eligibility criteria. In 1982, the basic grant per eligible level in each small school is $3620 plus $110 per pupil applied to the level of enrolment.

Small School Jurisdiction Grant

This grant provides assistance to those school jurisdictions with an enrolment of fewer than 1500 pupils. In 1982, the basic grant for jurisdictions with an enrolment of fewer than 500 is $1800 plus $47.80 per pupil applied to the level of enrolment. An enrolment between 500 and 1500 pupils qualifies the jurisdiction for a grant of $38,550 minus $25.70 per pupil applied to the level of enrolment.

Teacher Location Grant

Grants to boards for costs incurred as a result of employing teachers in remote and isolated communities are increased by 13.0% over the 1981 rates.

Teacher Housing Unit Grant

Boards receiving teacher location grants are also eligible for teacher housing unit (accommodation for one family) grants based on 40% of the location grant paid for the teacher occupying the unit. Where more than one teacher occupies a unit, the grant is based upon the teacher in respect of whom the greater location grant is payable.

Corporate Assessment Grant

To ease the decrease in amounts directed to the public school systems from undeclared corporate assessment, the province will provide funding for the period 1980-84. In 1980, public systems were compensated 100% followed by an annual decrease of 20%. Therefore, in 1982 they will be compensated at the 60% level, i.e., 60% of corporate assessment loss in 1982 based on 116% of 1981 taxable corporate assessment loss.

SPECIAL SUPPORT PROGRAMS

Educational Opportunities Fund (EOF)

This fund supports educational projects designed to upgrade the quality of education in grades 1-12. Proposals for projects require prior approval by Alberta Education and must be designed to satisfy broad program guidelines set by the province. Planning and implementation of projects is undertaken by local school jurisdictions. There are three components in the EOF:

1. The Elementary Component
   - permits a wide range of program activities in grades 1-6
   - provides all school boards with a maximum of $44.50 per elementary student in 1982
   - is approved to operate until June 30, 1984.

2. The Junior High Component
   - requires programming to focus on the needs of potential drop-out students in grades 7-9
   - provides all school boards with a maximum of $44.50 per junior high student in 1982
   - is approved to operate until June 30, 1984.

3. The Compensatory Component
   - supports programming for students in grades 1-12 who are educationally disadvantaged because of cultural, social, and economic conditions
   - provides eligible school boards with a maximum of $400 per disadvantaged pupil per school year
   - is approved to operate until June 30, 1985.

Learning Disabilities Fund

This fund provides provincial support for the diagnosis of perceptual and learning disorders, and prescription of corrective programs for all pupils in grades 1 through 12. In the 1982-83 school year, boards are eligible to receive the lesser of cost or $26.60 for each pupil enrolled in grades 1 through 6 to a maximum of $300,000 for services provided by persons approved by the Minister.

Special Education Teaching Position Grants

Boards receive teaching position grants for the operation of designated special education classes approved by Alberta Education. Provincial support for each type of special education teaching position is listed as follows:

Speciality of Position	Rate per Position
1. Educable mentally retarded, learning disabled, socially maladjusted, or resource room.	$ 15,060
2. Trainable mentally retarded, institutional, or homebound.	$ 19,420
3. Severely learning disabled, hard of hearing, low vision, speech disorders, or specified special school.	$ 20,730

Program Unit

Where special education teaching positions operate in a program unit for blind, deaf, or dependent handicapped children, provincial support will be paid according to pupil enrollment rather than speciality of position. This support is further limited to the actual cost of operating the program unit. The schedule of support for 1982 is as follows:

Number of Pupils Enrolled in Program Unit	Rate Per Program Unit
1	$ 20,770
2	$ 24,920
3	$ 29,070
4	$ 33,220
5	$ 37,370
6	$ 41,520
7 or more	$ 41,520 plus $6920 for each pupil enrolled in excess of 6 pupils.

Schools for the Handicapped (Category II Private Schools)

Where boards are unable to provide educational services to the handicapped, boards receive grants for pupils placed in approved schools for the handicapped depending upon

- the age of the pupil
- the nature of the handicap
- the extent of board contribution.

The grant ranges for each type of handicapped pupil in 1981 are as follows:

1.	Trainable mentally retarded	-	$1960	to	$3920
2.	Severely learning disabled	-	$4570	to	$4880
3.	Socially maladjusted	-	$2740	to	$3060
4.	Dependent or multiple handicapped	-	$8390	to	$8680

Out-of-Province Grants for the Handicapped

Where a handicapped child cannot be reasonably placed in any school in Alberta, the Deputy Minister may approve a grant payable towards tuition fees, maintenance, assessment at the school, and transportation for each child attending an approved out-of-province school for the handicapped.

Vocational Education Grants

Provincial grants are available to boards for vocational education courses for grades 11 and 12. In 1982, boards may claim either

1. A basic rate of $3320 for each eligible instructional area, and $445 for each pupil and day-extension student (a person 19 years old on September 1st) enrolled in at least 15 course credits. An additional $395 is provided for each non-resident pupil or day-extension student.

OR

2. A basic rate of $36.40 per credit enrollment unit (C.E.U.) for each vocational education course offered plus an additional $13.25 per C.E.U. for each non-resident and day-extension student. (Credit Value of Course multiplied by No. of Students Enrolled = No. of C.E.U.'s.)

Extension Program Grants

A board or private school may receive provincial support for an extension program to provide instruction in grades 1 through 12.

1. Senior High School

Effective September 1, 1982, boards receive a grant up to $1915 per school year for each day-extension student based on $76.60 per credit enrollment unit (C.E.U.) provided course time requirements set for regular pupils are met. The maximum grant for extension students not meeting the time requirements is $1270 per school year based on $51.10 per C.E.U..

Private schools meeting the time requirements receive $57.50 per C.E.U. to a maximum of $1430 for each day, evening, or summer extension student.

2. Elementary and Junior High School

   Boards receive the lesser of

   - $16.00 per hour of instruction time per class, or
   - an amount per hour equal to $16.00 times 1/12 times the number of extension students taught in each class.

   Private schools receive the lesser of

   - $13.00 per hour of instruction time per class, or
   - an amount per hour equal to $13.00 times 1/12 times the number of extension students taught in each class.

3. During the 1982-83 school year, boards and private schools are limited to

   - the greater of $70,000 or 114.1% of the maximum allowable support for the period September 1, 1982 to August 31, 1983
   - an amount specified by the Deputy Minister where an extension program did not operate during the above period.

Language Program Grant

Boards receive a language program grant for a language program for pupils in grades 1 through 6 which is approved by the Deputy Minister and in which the language of instruction is a language other than English or French. As pupils are required to receive at least one-half day of instruction in English, instruction provided in an additional language is limited to 50% of the school day. For the 1982-83 school year, this grant is up to $104.90 per pupil and pro-rated in relation to the instruction time provided.

Community School Grant

The intent of this grant is to assist boards in the development of community schools. For the 1982-83 school year, a board operating a designated community school which provides leadership services, requires secretarial services and supplies, or provides approved community use may be paid a grant of up to $65,220.

OTHER GRANTS

Additional support provided to qualifying school boards of a lesser financial significance are:

- Unorganized Territory Grant
- Intern Teachers Grant
- Wards of the Province Grant